

CHICAGO, IL — Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-08) and Congressman Steve Israel (NY-02) announced the introduction of their legislation, *The Commercial Airline Missile Defense Act*,

which would provide American passenger jets with an immediate and effective defense against the growing threat of shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles.

“This summer, record-breaking numbers of Americans will board planes,” Israel said. “They’ll go through TSA lines, have to show their photo ID’s, have their carry-on baggage screened, and have wands waved over their bodies. Once they finally board their planes, they may feel safe, but nothing will have been done to protect them from the most glaring vulnerability in commercial aviation: shoulder-fired-missiles. It would only take one successful attack with a MANPAD to have a devastating effect upon the commercial airline industry. This terrorist threat must be addressed sooner rather than later which is why Congresswoman Bean and I are introducing this legislation that I first introduced in February 2003.”

“As a businesswoman who has spent countless hours flying around the country, I know American travelers expect to be protected against known threats,” Bean said, “While the Department of Homeland Security has spent billions of dollars on improving airline security, the government has still done nothing to protect our airlines and the traveling public from this very real threat to our security. The technology to protect Americans from shoulder-fired missiles exists right now and is being used by our military. The ability to protect passengers with this technology is within reach, and America cannot afford to wait until after the terrorists strike before we take steps to defend the public. Our bill will put missile defense systems onboard America’s passenger jets to provide airborne protection wherever our passengers fly. I look forward to working with Congressman Israel, DHS, and the airline industry to implement an effective defense against shoulder-fired missiles as soon as possible.”

The Israel-Bean legislation:

- 1) Directs the Department of Homeland Security to issue regulations requiring commercial aircraft to be outfitted with anti-missile systems.
- 2) Requires a specific schedule for the purchase and installation of the systems and it requires installation and operation of missile defense systems begin no later than six months after certification of an effective system by DHS.
- 3) Requires that the protective system identify the threat of incoming missile detect the source of the threat disrupt the guidance systems of the missile.

Thousands of shoulder-fired missiles are in the hands of terrorists, who have demonstrated their intention to use them. Over the last 26 years, at least 35 civilian aircraft have come under

attack by shoulder-fired missiles, with 29 planes being shot down resulting in more than 500 deaths.

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